

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A number of network devices that control the communication of data frames between stations in a network are cascaded together to support a number of network stations. When a first device receives a data frame destined for a port on a second device, the first device transfers the
5 data frame to the second device. The second device stores receive port information transmitted with the data frame and processes the data frame. If the second device identifies a congestion condition associated with processing the data, the second device transmits the receive port information back to the first device. The first device then performs a flow control-related operation on the port identified by the receive port information.